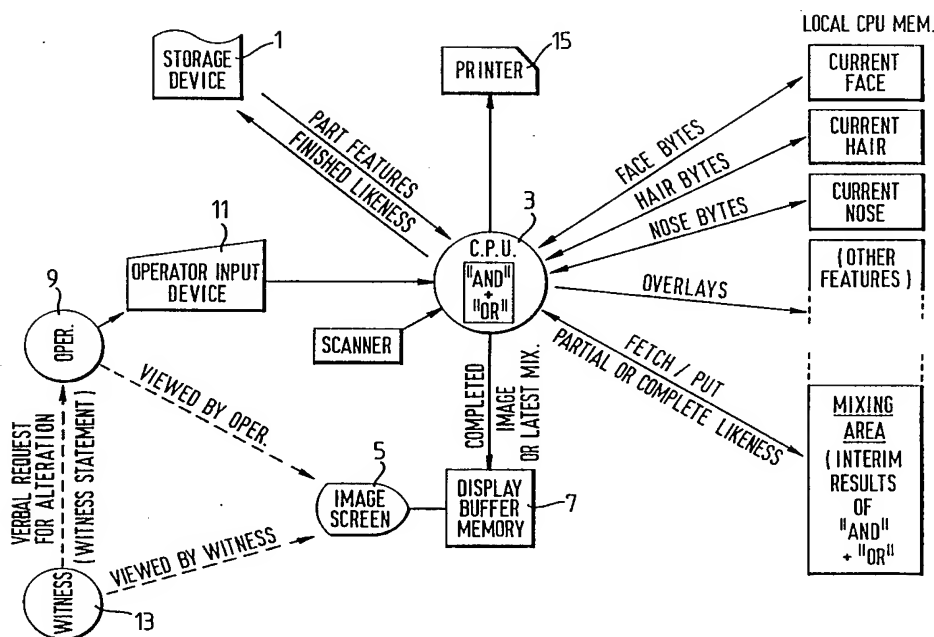




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : G06F 15/72, A61B 5/117		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/08311
			(43) International Publication Date: 14 April 1994 (14.04.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB93/02052			(74) Agents: BERESFORD, Keith, Denis, Lewis et al.; Beresford & Co., 2-5 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London WC1R 5DJ (GB).
(22) International Filing Date: 1 October 1993 (01.10.93)			
(30) Priority data:			
9221040.0	7 October 1992 (07.10.92)	GB	
9316726.0	12 August 1993 (12.08.93)	GB	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ASPLEY LIMITED [GB/GB]; Adler Shine & Company, Middlesex House, 29-45 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7HQ (GB).			(81) Designated States: AU, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
(72) Inventor; and			
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only) : PLATTEN, John, Desmond [GB/GB]; 7B Downhills Park Road, London N17 6PE (GB).			
Published With international search report.			

(54) Title: IMAGE DISPLAY SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An image display system includes an information store (1) which stores blocks of data corresponding to different images of the features of a number of different faces. A computer (3) is arranged to select blocks of data from the store (1) dependent on input commands entered by an operator (9), and display an image of a composite face produced from the selected features on a visual display screen (5). Different input commands are assigned weighting factors by the computer (3) so as to enable the computer to select features dependent on the weighting factors.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FR	France	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GB	United Kingdom	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	IT	Italy	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	JP	Japan	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovak Republic
CM	Cameroon	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LV	Latvia	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	MC	Monaco	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
DE	Germany	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
DK	Denmark	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
ES	Spain			VN	Viet Nam
FI	Finland				

- 1 -

IMAGE DISPLAY SYSTEM

This invention relates to an image display system. The invention has particular, although not exclusive, relevance to systems for producing an image of the face of a person. Such systems are used, for example, by the police as an alternative to the use of a police artist for producing an image of the face of a suspect, based on information given by a witness to a crime.

In UK Patent No. 1605135 there is described an image display system including a computer having an information store including a number of sets of stored data corresponding to images of different facial features taken from a number of different faces. An operator, acting on information relating to each feature of the face of a suspect provided by a witness, feeds the information into the computer. The computer performs a search amongst the sets of stored data, and selects data from the information store corresponding to images of the facial features having particular characteristics most closely corresponding to the features described by the witness. The chosen images are combined by the computer, and displayed on

- 2 -

a visual display device so as to present a composite image of a face to the witness.

The system disclosed in UK Patent No. 1605135 has been developed over the years to provide a useful police tool. In the system presently being used, images of the composite face on the visual display device may be edited so as, for example, to reduce the intensity, size or position of each of the selected facial features and add facial arrangements such as pairs of spectacles. The image displayed on the visual display unit may be further edited by means of a software computer graphics system in which lines may be "drawn" or shapes may be "painted" on the composite image so as, for example, to add facial blemishes.

Such a known system has a number of drawbacks. It is not possible to edit the image displayed on the display device until all the different parts of the face have been chosen and displayed on the visual display device as a composite face. This is confusing for the witness who has to continue to instruct the operator in the selection of further features of the face to be displayed, whilst viewing unsatisfactory representations of the features which he has chosen up to that time.

Furthermore, the witness will often give inexact

- 3 -

descriptions of features which he cannot remember or which he cannot verbalise. The witness may also describe features in different terms of reference to those of the operator. This leads to a large number of
5 images of the wrong facial features being displayed to the witness, thus lengthening the process of producing an acceptable composite image, and being a cause of possible confusion and fatigue to the witness.

It is an object of the present invention to
10 provide an image display system wherein at least some of the disadvantages of systems used hitherto are at least alleviated.

According to the present invention there is provided an image display system including an
15 information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to different images of features of a number of different composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the system, and
20 combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite image formed from the selection of said images of features.

The composite images are preferably images of
25 human faces.

- 4 -

Preferably the information store includes a plurality of discrete data bases corresponding to composite images of different types, and the input means is able to select blocks of data from different ones of the data bases during the formation of a single composite image.

Preferably, the computing means assigns weighting factors to the input commands, and performs the selection dependent on the weighting factors.

Preferably, the system includes means for modifying the images of features prior to the production of data relating to the composite image.

One image display system in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic overview of the components of the system;

Figure 2 illustrates the organisation of data within the storage device shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 illustrates the correlation between stored data value and the grey scale of the displayed image for each pixel of the image screen shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4, 5 and 6 illustrate schematically

- 5 -

three different image screen configurations; and

Figure 7 illustrates a face shape image displayed on the image screen.

5 1. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The system to be described is designed to enable an image of the face of a suspected criminal to be built up using a recollection of the face by a witness to the crime.

10 Referring firstly to Figure 1, the image display system to be described includes a storage device 1 for storing digital data relating to sets of images of possible features of different faces, for example face shapes, ear shapes, eye shapes etc. The device 1 is
15 linked to a central processing unit (CPU) 3 which is arranged to combine images corresponding to data from the storage device 1 to form images of a face, and display the images sequentially on the screen 5 of a visual display unit which is linked to the CPU 3 via a
20 display buffer memory 7. A suitable computer system for use in the system is, for example, an Intel 80X86.

A human operator, indicated as 9, is able to control the CPU 3 via an operator input device 11
25 which may take any suitable form such as a keyboard,

- 6 -

or a mouse device or a combination thereof. The operator 9 will generally act in response to verbal directions from the witness, indicated as 13.

When a "fit" of the face of the suspect is
5 obtained, or a record of an interim image displayed on the image screen 5 is required, the CPU 3 is arranged to send suitable control signals to a printer 15.

Turning now also to Figure 2, within the storage device 1, there are incorporated a number of discrete
10 data storage areas. A large proportion of storage space is dedicated to a number of databases, DATABASE1, DATABASE2, ... DATABASEn. Each database is dedicated to a different racial group, for example, Afro-Caribbean, Caucasian etc. for either
15 male or female subjects and includes data files relating to different possible versions of facial features, for example, different face shapes, different hair styles, different nose shapes and so on. Within the databases for each set of data relating
20 to a particular part of the face, there is included an index to the data files categorising the particular sets of data in each file, for example in the face shapes file, the stored images will be categorised as oval, round, square, triangular etc.

25 The storage device 1 also includes an output store

- 7 -

which stores data defining images which have been "pasted" using the system as will be described in more detail hereafter, together with information relating to a description of the pasted images.

5 The remaining part of the storage device 1 includes the software for a paintbrush program, for example Photostyler produced by Aldus, and a publishing program, for example Pagemaker produced by Aldus.

10 Finally the storage device 1 includes the software for the image pasting function, that is the "E-FIT" software, this comprising the system menus for display on the image screen 5, and the likeness data basing software whose operation will be described in more
15 detail hereafter.

2. DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

The image data stored in the storage device 1 is formed from complete source faces which are then
20 broken down into part images, one image for each facial feature such as head shape, eye shape etc. When not in use the image data is stored in the storage device 1 using a static medium such as magnetic tapes, magnetic disks or optical storage
25 units. The image data is then loaded as required into

- 8 -

the faster volatile local memory of the CPU 3 as indicated on the right hand side of Figure 1 for improved handling speed, the data being copied at the time of loading into the local memory, and modified in order to prepare it for the image pasting operation which will follow.

Each pixel of a part image is stored in a byte where 0 corresponds to black, 127 to white and 1-126 inclusive are linearly progressive scales of grey as illustrated in Figure 3. It will be seen that working in binary the maximum and minimum values that a byte may store are:

	00000000	= 0 in base 10
15	11111111	= 255 in base 10

The byte values 128-255 not used in the grey scale values are reserved for use as "padding" bytes in order to enable data corresponding to the part images to be stored in a byte array as will now be explained.

A byte array is a representation of a rectangle in a continuous storage medium, for example a frame store in the storage device 1. Thus, taking the example of

- 9 -

a 2x4 rectangle stored as a byte array, the addresses of the eight bytes can be established as follows:

	<u>Byte Number</u>	<u>Address of Byte</u>
5	first byte	line 1, column 1
	first byte + 1	line 1, column 2
	first byte + 2	line 1, column 3
	first byte + 3	line 1, column 4
	first byte + 4	line 2, column 1
10	first byte + 5	line 2, column 2
	first byte + 6	line 2, column 3
	first byte + 7	line 2, column 4

Thus, it can be seen that the byte corresponding to any particular pixel of the part image can be addressed as follows:

byte [Line, Column] is stored at (Address of 1st byte)
+ ((Line * Column)-1)

20

In view of this ease of addressing images stored in byte arrays, part images are always stored in an enclosing rectangle regardless of the shape of the part image. Parts of the rectangle which are not part of the image are then signified by special padding

25

- 10 -

bytes. Thus in the particular system being described, any byte values 128-255 are part of the padding and do not represent part of the image itself.

When the data representing the face images are loaded from the storage device 1 into the local memory of the CPU 3, byte values of each part image are doubled so to create two pictures. The first picture is called a "bitmap" and corresponds to the grey value distribution over the part image. The second picture corresponds to the silhouette of the part image, and is called the "mask". The modification of the data into these two pictures is as follows:

Picture 1 - bitmap

15	Image bytes (0-127)	↔	Image bytes 0-255
	Padding bytes (128-255)	→	0

Picture 2 - mask

20	Image bytes (0-127)	→	0
	Padding bytes (128-255)	→	255

3. FORM OF SCREEN DISPLAY

Turning now to Figures 4, 5 and 6, it is necessary that the witness be given a clear view of the image

- 11 -

displayed on the image screen 5 at all times. It is, however, also necessary that the operator 9 have some means of control of the system in order to enable the images displayed on the screen to be changed where
5 necessary. These conflicting criteria can be met in a number of ways.

Referring firstly to Figure 4, it is possible for two separate screens 41, 43 to be provided. The first screen 41 is designed to display the image of the face
10 currently under consideration by the witness, the separate screen 43 containing the menus and other control features for consideration by the controller 9. The particular system being described uses the WINDOWS software produced by MicroSoft which enables
15 the controller to select the appropriate operations from the control screen by means of a mouse. Such a two screen system suffers the disadvantage however that it may be appropriate to display some information for example, lists of options to the witness. The
20 use of a two screen system necessitates the witnesses attention being diverted from the display of the image, as well as being more difficult for the operator.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a combined image and
25 control screen which is designed to give both the

- 12 -

witness 13 and the operator 9 a clear view of the particular image being displayed on the screen at any time, and to give the operator 9 a clear view of the controls. The screen display illustrated in Figure 5
5 is designed for use by a right-handed operator whilst the screen display illustrated in Figure 6 is designed for use by a left-handed operator. The handedness of the display on the screen is controlled by a software instruction entered by the operator. The particular
10 screen configurations illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 have the advantages of avoiding instructions appearing in the region of the image being displayed to the witness as this is known to cause confusion. The controls are designed to be displayed as compact
15 "button palettes" which are designed for ease of use of the system by a relatively unskilled operator.

4. SELECTION OF FEATURES FOR DISPLAY

It is very important to provide a witness with a
20 good as possible a likeness of the face of a suspect as soon as possible as a witness will tend to remember less of the memorised face with each additional incorrect feature with which they are presented. The system therefore starts from a type likeness, that is
25 an example of the generic face group to which the

- 13 -

suspect belongs based on an initial statement from the witness. All the features are thus coded from the verbal descriptions from the witness with the code for each feature being placed in index files in the storage device 1.

The witness 13 is initially provided with a display on the screen 51 of a world map as an aid to choosing a data base corresponding to one of a number of different ethnic groups, for example:

10

Afro-Carribbean

Caucasian

Hispanic

Arabic

15

Oriental

Asian

Aboriginal.

A choice will also be made at this point between male and female, male and female data bases being provided for each of the above ethnic groups. As each feature of the face is described by the witness, all part images in the storage device 1 will be drawn from the nominated database unless otherwise indicated. The division of the stored data into different databases

- 14 -

is necessary to increase the speed of addressing the storage areas. It is however a feature of the system that if necessary features from a non-nominated database may be called up, for example a Caucasian
5 subject may have a "dreadlocks" type hairstyle normally found only in Afro-Caribbean racial groups.

The choice of the features displayed on the image screen 5 is determined by so called "descriptors" taken from the information provided by the witness.
10 The operator enters an initial statement on behalf of the witness 13 and the relevant indexes for each feature are searched for feature images, which match the descriptors taken from the statement given by the
15 witness. The face shape displayed on the image screen 5 will thus be chosen to be one of the various possible shapes, for example round, oval, square etc. If the first face shape displayed to the witness is not correct due, for example, to an inexact
20 verbal description by the witness, subsequent facial shapes may be chosen and displayed.

It is a feature of the system that individual members of naturally occurring pairs of features i.e.:

25 Right Eye & Left Eye

- 15 -

Right Ear & Left Ear

Right Brow & Left Brow

may have different descriptors, i.e. be derived from different source faces.

5 An initial tan value for the face may be selected by the operator acting under the witnesses' instructions, such that the image initially displayed to the witness has the correct tone. This tan value is stored in a static memory location, and remains
10 constant throughout the construction of the image. Whenever further features are called from the store device 1 into the local memory in the CPU 3, the tan value is applied so that the loading transformation as described above is amended to:

15

Feature image byte of n - Bitmap byte of value $n*2+tan$

Checks are made by the software such that:

20

if $n*2+tan$ exceeds 255

then the byte value of the Bitmap is set at 255

if $n*2+tan$ is less than 0

then the byte value of the Bitmap is set at 0

In other words an image byte cannot be whiter than
25 white (255) or darker than black (0).

- 16 -

It is found that a witness will respond better to an image of a complete face rather than a catalogue of parts of the face. This is because a complete face places each individual feature in a natural context.

5 This can be seen by considering the example of a deep set eye. If the eye is shown in isolation on a white background the eye is out of context and information is lost about just how deep set the eye will appear when set on a face shape. By contrast where the eye

10 is shown as part of a complete face the eye will be seen in context. Where the eye is displayed in its natural background the eye is seen to sink into the face shape even if the face shape is not correct. Thus the witness can make a judgement about how deep

15 set the eye will be in the finished likeness.

Similar considerations apply to other features, and hence it is important that a whole face is always displayed on the image screen to the witness 13 rather than a series of images of disjointed facial features.

20 Thus if the witness 13 fails to make an initial statement, such that the operator is not able to enter descriptors for each facial feature, the system must complete the face to be displayed with default features. Rather than supply a single invariable

25 default feature for each unspecified feature, the

- 17 -

system instead makes a default search using descriptors such as average, medium, straight (in the case of a mouth), oval (in the case of a face) and so on. This gives a complete selection of unobtrusive features to enable a facial image to be displayed so as to provide a prompt for further discussion between the witness 13 and the operator 9.

When features which the witness remembers strongly have been located from the storage device and built into the displayed image, an attempt can be made to replace those facial features which were found in a default search with more accurate features. It is found that when strongly remembered features are correctly displayed, this strengthens the ability of the witness to remember the remaining features, and thus increase the likelihood of further correct recollection by the witness.

The system is designed to compensate for the witness being slightly inaccurate in his initial statement, or the witness describing the remembered features of the suspect's face in different terms to what is understood by the operator.

- 18 -

Thus for example, the witness may say:

"He had short dark hair."

5 When the image appears on the image screen 5, it
will be realised that the correct descriptor for what
the witness can remember of the suspect is:

"He had very short dark hair."

10

 In normal use of the system, the operator will
assume initially that the witness is correct, and thus
the first features to be displayed on the image screen
5 will be those which conform exactly to the
15 description given by the witness. The system is,
however, designed to conduct an intelligent search to
compensate for the witness being slightly inaccurate
so as to enable the system also where required to
display those features which are just slightly
20 different to those described by the witness, followed
by those features which are slightly similar to those
described by the witness and finally those features
which are definitely different. This may be achieved
as follows:

25

The descriptors for the system may be divided into

- 19 -

two types which may be designated as "independent" and "scalar". A scalar descriptor is a descriptor which exhibits a linear range of values from its first possible value to its last possible value. For example, the descriptor "hair length" may be seen to be a scalar descriptor as it may have the following values:

Very Short
Short
Collar Length
Long
Very Long

By contrast the descriptor for face shape is an independent descriptor as it may have values which are unconnected, for example:

Oval
Round
Square
Triangular
Angular

- 20 -

Thus, face shapes lack an obvious trend or gradation between each value and the descriptions for face shapes are therefore independent.

5 The descriptor to either side of that put forward by the witness for a scalar descriptor may be said to be a close match. On the other hand, the descriptor to either side of that put forward for an independent descriptor can only be seen as a complete mismatch. Thus, the system is designed to treat independent and
10 scalar descriptors in a different manner. The system is also designed to recognise some descriptors as being more important than others. In order to achieve this, the storage device 1 is loaded with data relating to each of all the possible descriptors.
15 Each descriptor is allocated a designation of scalar or independent, and weak or strong.

The system includes a score table for allocating a weighting factor to each descriptor. An example of a possible score table is as follows:

20

Strong Scalar Exact	+3 points
Strong Scalar One-out	+2 points
Strong Scalar Miss	-3 points

- 21 -

	Weak Scalar Exact	+2 points
	Weak Scalar One-out	+1 points
	Weak Scalar Miss	-2 points
5	Strong Indep. Exact	+3 points
	Strong Indep. Miss	-3 points
	Weak Indep. Exact	+2 points
	Weak Indep. Miss	-2 points
10	Descriptor unused	0 points

Thus, when the system searches for data corresponding to a set of features designated by the witness by means of descriptors, more weight will be put to some features than others. Furthermore, the system does not require the operator 9 to enter every possible descriptor, as a witness may remember some aspects of a suspect's face better than others, for example:

"His hair was brown but I cannot remember its length".

- 22 -

In the example of the above score table, such a hair length descriptor will be scored with 0 points.

When the witness views an image of a feature which the witness considers is particularly close to his
5 memory of the suspect, the operator may interrogate the system as to the exact descriptor of that feature as stored in the index file. The operator can then feed this new descriptor back into the system where the intelligent search mechanism of the system will
10 ensure that the images of the most similar features to that identified by that of the witness are brought forward for consideration.

Where a witness has a particularly poor recall, it is possible to browse through the stored images at
15 random using the system without providing an initial descriptor. Where no descriptors are provided, the system will undertake a default search to provide an image of a face including an unobtrusive features as described herebefore. This initial default face can
20 be progressively amended by means of the feedback mechanism as described above thus resulting in similar features being sequentially presented to the witness until the correct likeness is achieved.

During the image forming process, it is possible
25 that the witness will become fatigued having seen too

- 23 -

many features, the witness then having trouble in remembering the face of the suspect. The system is designed such that using the controls displayed on the image screen 5 the operator 9 is able to clear the image from the screen. This then allows the operator 9 and witness 13 to discuss the witnesses' memory of the suspect without influence by the image displayed on the screen. The operator 9 is then able to reveal the latest image on the display screen 5 when the witness is ready to proceed.

There will be some instances in which the types of images stored in the store 1 may conflict. For example some images of beards may include a moustache. The system will detect when such a feature is present and prevent an additional moustache from appearing. Likewise long hair images may include ears where the ears are slotted through the hair or some eyes may include brows because some pairs of eyes and brows are naturally matched to give a specific "brooding" effect which would be lost if the eyes and brows were separated. The system will prevent an additional pair of ears or brows from appearing. It is, however, possible for the operator to override this facility where part of a compound feature is of particular

- 24 -

interest. The operator will then be able to compensate for some degree of image duplication.

5. PASTING THE IMAGES

5 The technique by which various features of the face stored in the storage device 1 are combined to provide an image of a face on the image screen 5 is known as pasting.

 Turning now to Figure 7, the construction of each
10 composite image is based on a face shape, this face shape providing the setting in which the other features will lie. Figure 7 shows a typical example of the face shapes stored in the databases DATABASE1 ... DATABASEn from which it can be seen that the central
15 face area is featureless and heavily roughened. The central featureless core of the face shape provides a disruptive background. This is important as it has been proven by psychologists, for example Dr John Shepherd of the University of Aberdeen that spurious
20 lines interfere with recognition. The central featureless core allows images of the remaining details of the face to be pasted into the face shape without visible edges thus giving a naturalistic appearance. The roughened area in the central face
25 region will effectively camouflage the edges of the

- 25 -

other facial features which are pasted into this area without the need for complicated smoothing procedures. The features to be placed on the face shape are also designed to help to reduce join lines. The silhouette
5 of each part image is not random, but is designed such that all edges occur along contours of equal brightness. Thus, when placed upon a disruptive background the join lines will appear as the edge of the natural shadow surrounding the feature.

10 Each selected feature is added to the face shape displayed on the image screen 5 in such a way that the padding in the byte array of data for the feature is not transferred. First the mask for the feature is pasted onto the face shape combining byte for byte
15 with the face shape then a mathematical operation known as an AND operation. This operation leaves a silhouette of the feature superimposed on the face shape. The Bitmap i.e. the grey scale distribution for the image is then applied byte by byte using a
20 mathematical operation known as an OR operation. This places the Bitmap in the silhouette of the feature leaving the rest of the face untouched and completing the paste of the feature.

The AND and OR operations will now be described by
25 way of particular examples:

- 26 -

AND OPERATION

	Overlay feature	Padding
Face detail	11101110	11101110
Mask	00000000 AND	11111111 AND
5	-----	-----
Result	00000000	11101110

OR OPERATION

	Overlay feature	Padding
10	Result of AND	
	Operation	00000000
	Bitmap	10011001 OR
	-----	-----
	Result	10011001
		11101110

15

It will be seen that the result of the combined AND and OR operations is to enable the image of the selected feature to be pasted over the existing image on the display screen 5, whilst the padding for the feature is submerged by the rest of the existing image.

Features are added successively using the AND and OR operations until the data for a completed face is produced. The data input into the display buffer memory 7 which has an image buffer of bytes

25

- 27 -

corresponding exactly to the pixels of the image screen 5, thus enabling the specified image to be displayed on the image screen 5.

5 6. EDIT MODE

It is a feature of the system that at any point within the pasting procedure it is possible to edit the image displayed on the image screen 5. There are three primary edit functions which can be made to any
10 individual feature of the displayed face, these are:

Alter Brightness

Alter Size

Alter Position (including "Together" and "Apart")

15

Additionally, the system has a facility for normal and boost mode editing. The boost mode allows editing of any particular feature in large increments. This thus speeds up the procedure of editing in so much as
20 the operator may make coarse modifications to a feature using the boost mode followed by fine adjustment of the feature using the normal mode.

Where required the system allows a multiple selection of features to be edited together, for
25 example:

- 28 -

"Move the nose, mouth and both eyes up."

The system has the ability to perform the necessary editing of the displayed image on all these features, or any chosen group of features simultaneously.

It is also a particular feature of the system that it is possible, where required, for the edit function to operate separately on individual members of naturally occurring pairs of features for example, right eye and left eye. In particular where the descriptors for a pair of features have been derived from different source faces, the system will remember this and automatically perform separate edit functions on the members of the pair.

This contrasts with the alternative situation where the pairs of features may be edited so that they remain a naturally matching pair.

When an edit has been made, each current value of the data displayed on the screen of the system is stored in the system local memory. These stored values may be protected during the loading into the local memory of a new feature from the storage device 1. Alternatively, the stored value may be allowed to

- 29 -

be modified to a value more natural to the incoming image, for example:

"The suspect has unnaturally high eyebrows."

5

In this particular example, the move edit function is performed on the currently displayed set of displayed data so as to raise the eyebrow position, the value of the data then being locked. When the
10 next alternative eyebrow shape is called, the eyebrows displayed on the screen take their natural position on the displayed face together with the locked data increment. The eyebrows thus appear higher than normal.

15

This feature is very important when features from different databases of naturally different tone are mixed, for example an Afro-Caribbean nose will be darker than a Caucasian nose. If, for example it is required to produce a simulated image of a half-cast
20 subject or perhaps a genetic throwback, it is distracting for the witness to have to load each darker feature in turn and then lighten the feature using the edit mode. This particular locking technique enables the first feature chosen to be
25 lightened, and then the edit brightness increment

- 30 -

data to be locked into the system thus enabling subsequent features to be lightened automatically to the required amount.

5 7. INTERACTIVE ART SYSTEM

 The system allows for an interactive art system to perform freehand alteration of the displayed image. The interactive art system may be used at any time during the pasting process. The art system will alter
10 the feature currently held in the local memory of the CPU 3, the original feature stored in the storage device 1 being unaltered. The alteration produced by the art system will only be stored until the local memory is flushed, for example when a further possible
15 alternative feature is loaded. However, if required, the feature altered by the art work system may be permanently saved in the storage device 1.

 An example of the operation of the freehand art system is as follows:

20

1. The correct nose shape has been displayed using the selection processes described above.
2. According to the witness the nose should have an additional wart.
- 25 3. The nose is displayed and the painting mode is

- 31 -

selected.

4. The wart is painted on the painted nose.

5. The nose plus wart is input into the local memory and mixed into the stored likeness.

5

8. OVERLAYS

The local CPU memory includes the mount of storage for storing blank feature areas in which images known as "Overlays" may be assigned. The images for the overlays may be derived from a predefined library of parts stored in the storage device 1. The library may include such features as hats, glasses, sunglasses, moles, scars, lines and other items which can similarly be added to a face. The contents of the library may be described as a menu both on the image screen 5 and in an indexed pictorial catalogue which may be presented to the witness. Once an image has been assigned to an overlay, the pasting of the overlay on the face displayed on the image screen 5 will be as any other feature. The data relating to the overlay may, however, include information relating to the position of the overlay on the composite image, eg. at the top of the image in the case of a hat.

Alternatively the operator is able to compose the features on the overlay using information from the

25

- 32 -

current composite picture displayed on the image screen 5 using the interactive art system as described above. For example the witness may realise that the image of a suspect requires a question mark shaped scar. The current face shown on the display screen 5 is transferred to the interactive art system. An appropriate scar is painted onto the composite image. The image of the scar is then cut out of the face and assigned to an overlay. The image of the scar may be then moved, altered in tone or colour, or rescaled just like any other component.

It will be appreciated that is preferable for the whole face to be transferred to the interactive art system as this will then provide an appropriate context for the scar. If the scar was drawn as an isolated feature, or upon a local sample of the face, for example the cheek, the overall effect of the scar on the whole face would be difficult to judge.

As a further alternative, the operator can add images to an overlay from other sources. In one example where a local street gang design their own hat motif, the operator may use a scanner, indicated as 17 on Figure 1, or other appropriate hardware such as a video camera to turn an example of the hat motif into an image which is then stored in the system,

- 33 -

either in the local CPU memory or in the storage device 1. The image may either be displayed separately to the witness or may be assigned to an overlay and thus may be added to the composite image, moved, altered in tone or colour, and/or rescaled.

Generally the overlays will be laid over the top of the standard facial components of an image, this procedure fitting in with the general predefined composition order of the system which ensures for example that eyes always appear beneath brows, but underneath the hair. The operator may, however, change the order of construction of the composite image where this appears necessary. An example of this may be where an unidentified murder victim has been found in which the face is largely intact but the eyes have decomposed. The face of the murder victim may be scanned into the system and the image stored. The image may then be assigned to an overlay, thus appearing as the initial composite image on the display screen 5. The eyes of the facial image may then be moved down the order in which the face is normally composed, such that they are drawn after the overlay. New eyes can then be selected from the various stored images of eyes in the store 1, thus creating a composite image which is acceptable for

- 34 -

display in newspaper, posters or television broadcasts.

It will be appreciated that once data relating to a particular overlay has been introduced into the system, it may be stored and used in subsequent composite images as with any other feature.

9. OUTPUT OF THE SYSTEM

When the witness is satisfied that the image of the face displayed on the display screen bears a close resemblance to the suspect, the operator causes the system to export a byte image of the displayed face to magnetic storage so that the image can be printed or processed for example, for inclusion in posters displaying the suspect's face to be published at a later date. The image itself contains no information regarding the contents of the image or how the image was formulated. The system does however, call a procedure for interpreting the image in terms of descriptors. These descriptors are then saved to the storage device 1. This description in terms of descriptors may then be used to search through a further data base containing other identification data. For example, it may be used to search through a storage system including images of previous

- 35 -

which causes the system to draw a large circle in the memory of the display device 5. This appears on the screen of the display device 5, the monitor then being adjusted until the image is of a circle. If this
5 procedure is not taken in order to ensure the correct setting of the monitor, the final print will not match the image on the screen. Thus for example, where the circle in the memory of the display device appears as an oval on a poorly adjusted display device monitor,
10 the circle will still be printed as a circle by the printer 15. Thus, face images will be printed either thinner or fatter than that determined by the witness on the viewing of the image on the image screen 5.

15 10. ALTERNATIVE USES OF THE SYSTEM

It will be appreciated that while the system described herebefore has particular benefits in the production of a face image using information from a witness based on his memory of a suspect, the system
20 will have other uses. Where an input image is put into the system for example, from a digitization of a photograph of a child who has been missing for some time, the system may be used to produce an ageing of the face of the child.

25 Furthermore, the system may be used not only to

- 36 -

produce a likeness of a suspect, but to crystalise the witnesses' initial loose verbal description into a structured description using a recognized facial coding scheme.

- 5 It will also be appreciated that whilst a system in accordance with the invention finds particular application in the construction of human faces, it also will find application in the construction of other composite images.

- 37 -

CLAIMS:

1. An image display system including an information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to different images of features of a number of different composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the system, and combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite image formed from a selection of said images of features, wherein the computing means locates categories of images of features by means of a search in which weighting factors are applied to the input commands used to define the categories of images.
2. A system according to claim 1 in which the computing means selects subsequent blocks of data dependent on earlier input commands so as to select blocks of data corresponding to images of features which have a chosen relationship.
3. A system according to either of the preceding claims including means for sampling data relating to features of the currently displayed composite image, and means for causing the computing means to use the sampled data to influence the subsequent selection of blocks of data.

- 38 -

4. A system according to any one of the preceding claims in which the selected block of data is substituted for by the block of data selected using the next closest score according to the weighting factors.

5

5. A system according to any one of the preceding claims including means for forming additional images of features not stored in the information store, means for feeding data representative of the additional images into the display system, and means for producing data corresponding to said additional images so that the additional images may be incorporated in said chosen composite image.

15 6. An image display system including an information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to different images of features of a number of different composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the system, and combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite image formed from a selection of said images of features wherein the system includes means for forming additional images of features not stored in the information store, 20 means for feeding data representative of the additional images into the display system, and means for producing data corresponding to said additional images so that the

- 39 -

additional images may be incorporated in said chosen composite image.

7. A system according to claim 5 or claim 6, including
5 means for storing blocks of data relating to the additional images such that said blocks of data may be selected by the computing means for use in subsequent composite images.

10 8. A system according to claim 5,6 or 7 in which said data representative of the additional images may include data representative of the position of the additional image on the chosen composite image.

15 9. A system according to any one of the preceding claims including means for modifying the images of features prior to the production of data relating to the chosen composite image.

20 10. A system according to claim 9 in which the modifying means is able to modify the images using either a coarse adjustment mode for major modifications, or a fine adjustment mode for minor modifications.

25 11. An image display system including an information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to different images of features of a number of different

- 40 -

composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the system, and combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite
5 image formed from a selection of said images of features and including means for modifying the images of features prior to the production of data relating to the chosen composite image, wherein the modifying means is able to modify the images using either a coarse adjustment mode
10 for major modifications, or a fine adjustment mode for minor modifications.

12. A system according to claim 9,10 or 11 including means for storing data relating to the modification of
15 a feature, and means for applying a corresponding modification to corresponding features which are subsequently selected.

13. A system according to claim 9,10,11 or 12 in which
20 the modification means may modify more than one feature simultaneously.

14. An image display system including an information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to
25 different images of features of a number of different composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the

- 41 -

system, and combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite image formed from a selection of said images of features wherein the system contains means for recognising the omission of one or more input commands necessary to complete a composite image, and includes means for searching through the store for blocks of data using a selection of predetermined input commands so as to provide a selection of composite images.

10

15. An image display system including an information store for storing blocks of data corresponding to different images of features of a number of different composite images, a computing means for selecting blocks of data from the store dependent on input commands to the system, and combining means for combining blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a chosen composite image formed from a selection of said images of features in which the computer includes means for searching through the store for blocks of data so as to produce data corresponding to a composite image which has a predetermined relationship to an earlier composite image.

16. A system according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the information store includes a plurality of discrete data bases corresponding to composite images of different types, and the computer is able to select

- 42 -

blocks of data from different ones of the data bases during the formation of a single composite image.

17. A system according to any one of the preceding
5 claims in which the features are features of a human face, and the composite images are images of human faces.

18. A system according to any one of the preceding
claims including a visual display unit for displaying
10 both information relating to the input commands, and the composite image on a single screen, wherein the information and the composite image are kept separate so as to allow a clear view of the composite image.

15 19. A system according to claim 18 including means for changing the relative positions of the information and the composite image on the screen.

20 20. A system according to claim 18 or 19 in which the display of the composite image can be blanked by means of an input command to the system.

21. A system according to any one of the preceding
claims including means for defining a predetermined order
25 for combining the blocks of data corresponding to the selected features, and means for varying the predetermined order when required.

- 43 -

22. A system according to any one of the preceding claims including means for detecting when blocks of data causing duplication of a feature of a composite image have been selected, means for preventing data from one
5 of the blocks of data relating to said duplicated feature from producing an image of the duplicated feature in a chosen composite image, and means for overriding said means for preventing when required.
- 10 23. A system according to any one of the preceding claims including camouflaging means for camouflaging the edges of the images of features in the chosen composite image.
- 15 24. A system according to claim 22 in which the images of features are pasted onto a featureless core having a roughened area effective to camouflage said edges.
- 20 25. A system according to claim 22 or 23 in which the edges of the images of features all occur along contours of equal brightness.
- 25 26. An image display system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

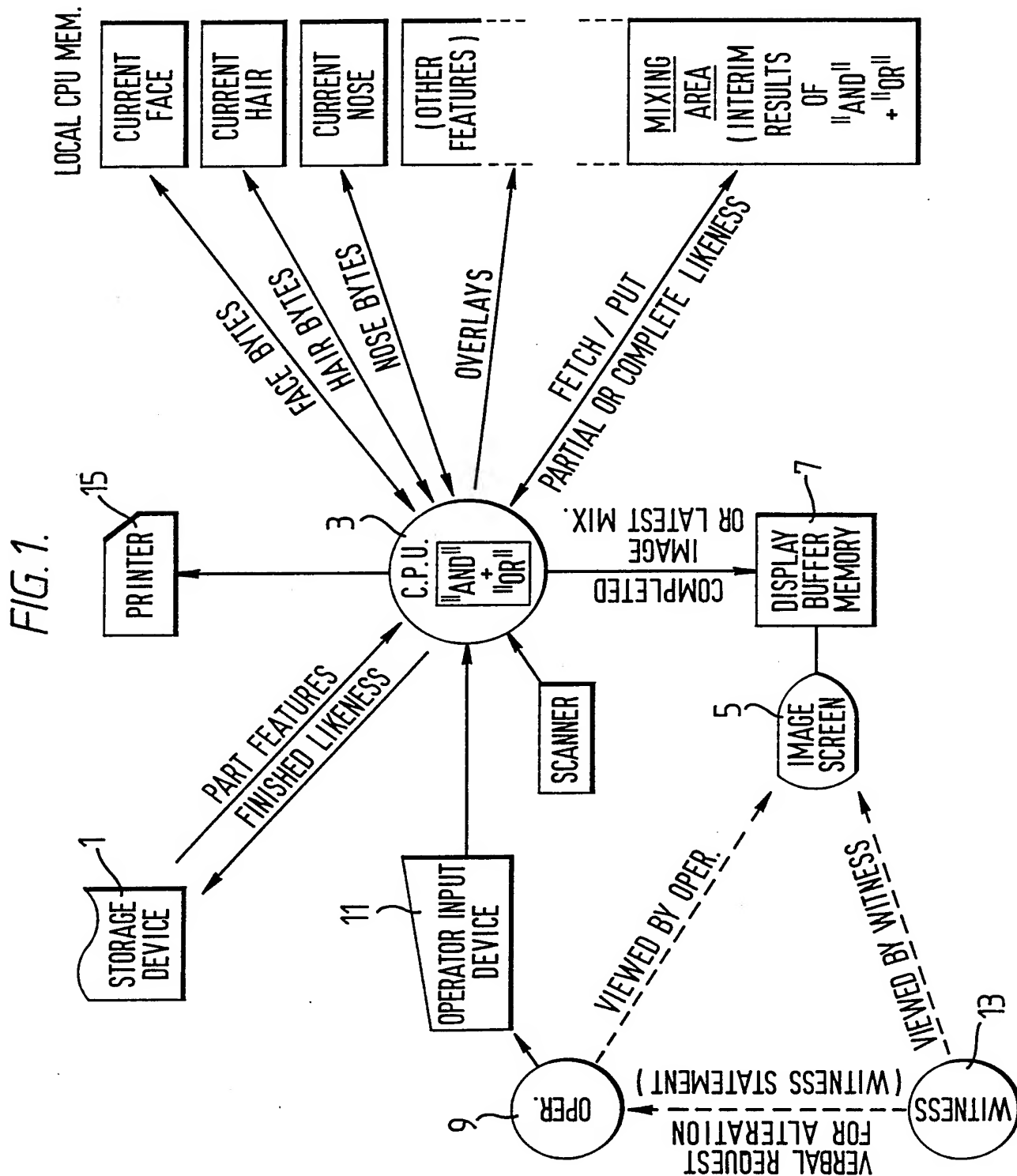


FIG. 2.

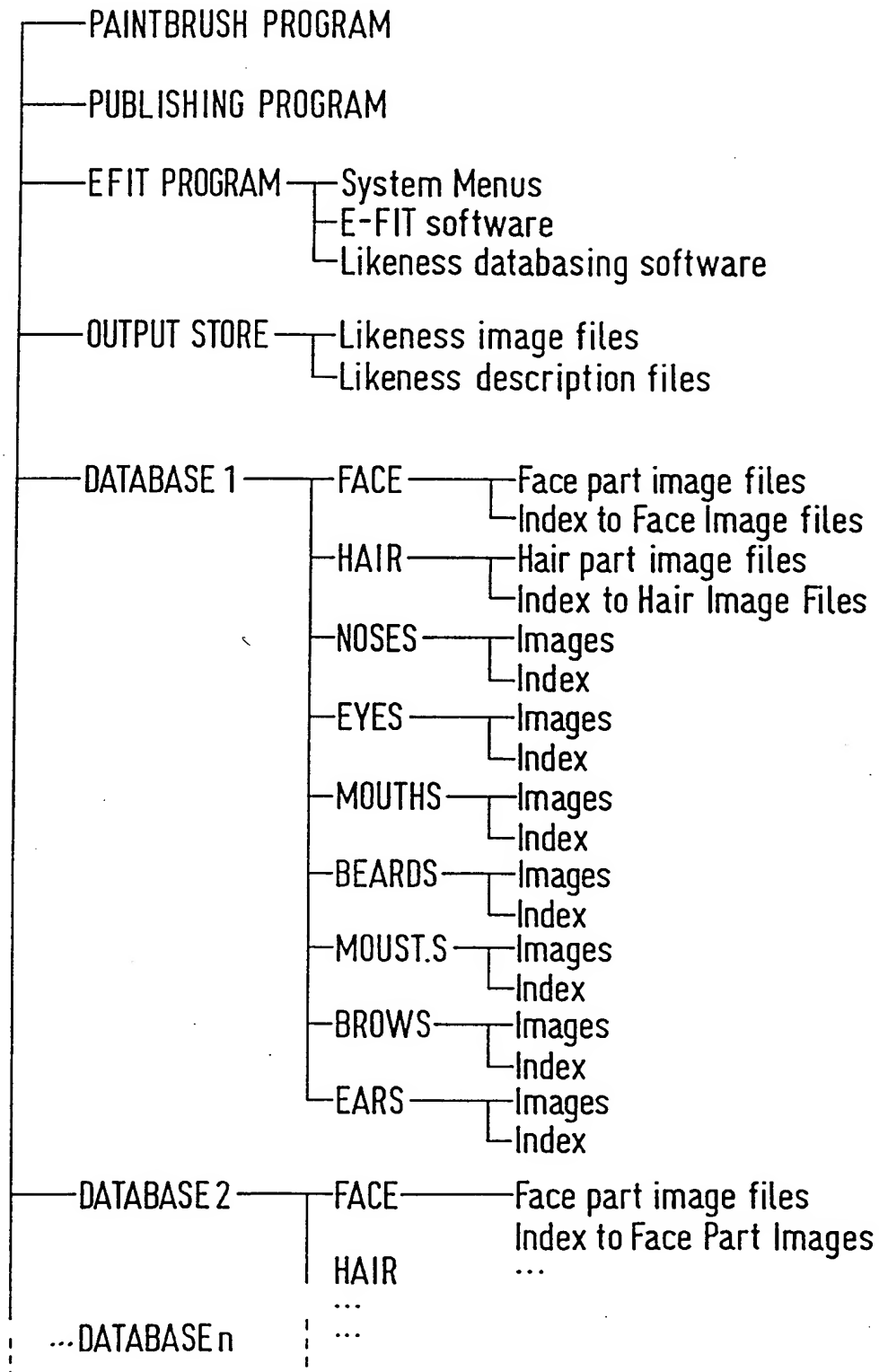


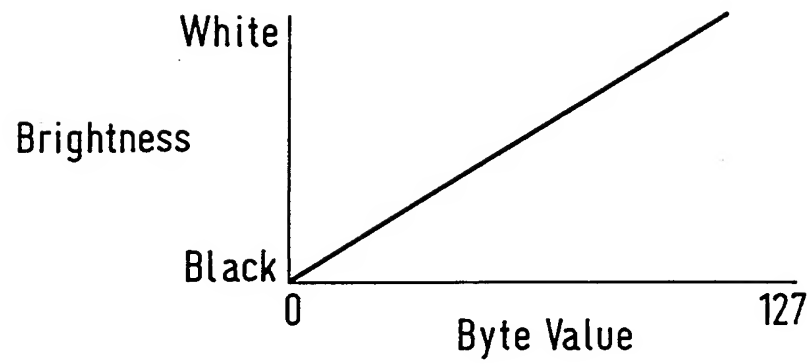
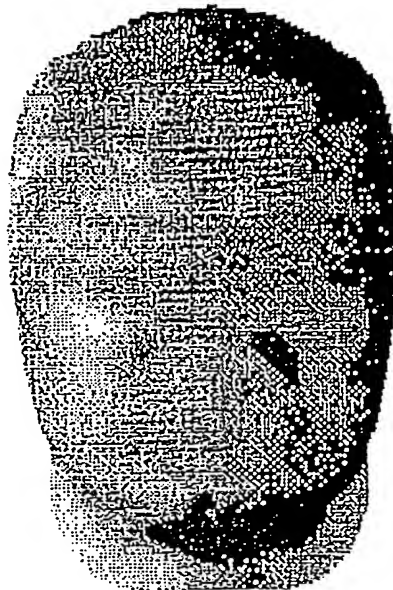
FIG. 3.*FIG. 7.*

FIG. 4.

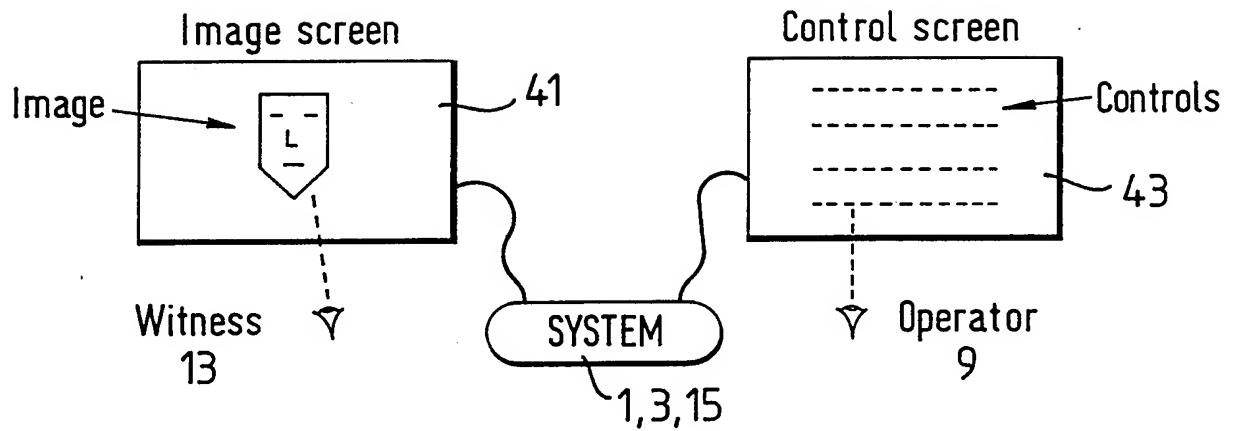


FIG. 5.

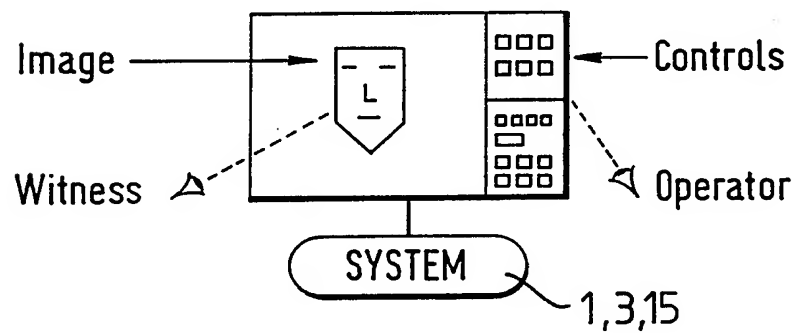
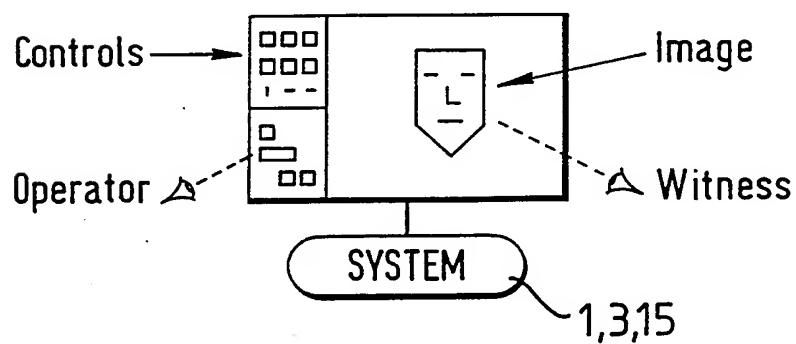


FIG. 6.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 93/02052

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 5 G06F15/72 A61B5/117

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 5 G06F A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US,A,5 057 019 (HARVEY) 15 October 1991 see column 1, line 56 - column 2, line 27; figure 3 ---	1-3,5-8, 16-19
Y	1991IEEE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS 11 June 1991 , SINGAPORE pages 2665 - 2668 CHANG SEOK CHOI ET AL. 'a system of analyzing and synthesizing facial images' * paragraph: "3.2. analysis of the facial images"* see figure 4 ---	1-3,5-8, 16-19
A	EP,A,0 275 124 (SHARP) 20 July 1988 --- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 December 1993

Date of mailing of the international search report

06. 01. 94

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+ 31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Perez Molina, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: al Application No
PCT/GB 93/02052

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GENETIC ALGORITHMS 13 July 1991 , USA pages 416 - 421 XP260130 CALDWELL ET AL. 'tracking a criminal suspect through "face-space" with a genetic algorithm' ---	
A	PATTERN RECOGNITION vol. 7 , 1975 , UK pages 187 - 196 GILLESON ET AL. 'A HEURISTIC STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING HUMAN FACIAL IMAGES ON A CRT' ---	
A	IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUZZY SYSTEMS 8 March 1992 , USA pages 1063 - 1069 XP342979 LIM ET AL. 'A FACE RECOGNITION SYSTEM USING FUZZY LOGIC AND ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK' -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/GB 93/02052

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A-5057019	15-10-91	NONE	
EP-A-0275124	20-07-88	JP-A- 63175924 JP-A- 63175973	20-07-88 20-07-88